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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AL](#)

SUBJECT: RIPPLES FROM A BOULDER: AMBASRADOR'S REMARKS RENEWQ
DEBATE ON CORRUPTION, IMQUJITY

corruption, an issue of paramount importance for Albania's
further democratic development. The media storm raised by
the Ambassador's speech highlighted the need to remove
official immunity. It is a timely issue, particularly with the Gerdec
investigation ongoing in an apparently diligent and
professional manner, and the issue still before the public
eye, an incentive to move forward on lifting immunity for all
may have come at an opportune time. Berisha's attempts to
minimize the Ambassador's examples and to extol progress in
the government's fight against corruption are not convincing
to the average Albanian. In coming weeks, we will continue
to keynote corruption, particularly the lifting of immunity,
in our private discussions with senior government and
opposition leaders, and to keep it front and center in our
public pronouncements. END COMMENT.
WITHERS